

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Honorable Jerry Turner

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Council Priorities

1. Prevention of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco abuse

Provide educational programs through the local schools and churches for preventive education.

2. Expand educational curriculum and prevent truancy

Promote the creation of career directional programs and educate parents on truancy issues.

3. Improve curriculum and standards for preschool programs

Develop standards and accreditation for preschool programs.

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county

Early Care Education

Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Improve quality of already existing programs in the county

Action Steps

- 1) Develop educational curriculums for the programs.
- 2) Get more funding to improve the quality of the counties programs.
- 3) Get accreditation for all programs.

Expand the Head Start programs to other areas in the county

Action Steps

- 1) Work with Mobile Community Action in developing Head Start programs to all areas of the county.
- 2) Locate facilities for this program.
- 3) Get community involvement in support of said programs.

Provide daycare services for children during extended working hours in an effort to support working parents and increase child supervision

Action Steps

- 1) Provide daycare services for children of families who work extended hours.
- 2) Develop educational curriculum/tutoring programs for children receiving evening daycare services.
- 3) Provide for the safety and security of after hour facilities.

Economic Security

Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Financial stability for families

Action Steps

- 1) Seek to get an employment office in Washington County.
- 2) Continue to work and help local providers get area jobs.
- 3) Provide assistance in obtaining information relating to economic resources and availability through other agencies.

Vocational training

Action Steps

- 1) Continue to initiate vocational training for local plant operations.
- 2) Work with local economic development groups to bring more quality jobs to this area.
- 3) Continue to maintain dialogue with local educators to enhance future vocational job training.

Expansion of economic sector

Action Steps

- 1) CPC (and members) seek to help small businesses.
- 2) Membership becoming more involved in local "Economic Development Partnership".
- 3) Interact to help keep local economic climate conducive to helping businesses expand or start up.
- 4) Work with local businesses (industry) to aid adolescent-aged kids' job opportunities.

Education

Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

College readiness and alternative programs to college

Action Steps

- 1) Offer a college career day each school year to all high school students.
- 2) Offer a career day each school year to all high school students with emphasis on vocational, technical and military training.

Social workers for schools

Action Steps

- 1) For social workers to counsel with parents and children concerning truancy problems.
- 2) To aid and counsel with parents and children concerning potential dropouts, as well as, assisting dropouts with obtaining alternative educational source, i.e. (GED and vocational training).
- 3) To handle specific social issues concerning children in the school system.

Career programs

Action Steps

- 1) Create career directional programs.
- 2) Offer specific vocational skill training.
- 3) Offer training to high school seniors to allow them to obtain certificates shortly after graduation, such as through a CAN program.

Health

Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Substance abuse

Action Steps

- 1) Create a substance abuse prevention and treatment program.
- 2) Provide parent awareness classes on substance abuse.
- 3) Create anonymous tip line (no fault) to aid to eradicated drugs in schools.

Teen pregnancy

Action Steps

- 1) Provide education for birth control.
- 2) Provide prenatal/parental education.
- 3) Provide education for STD's.

Poor dental care

Action Steps

- 1) Encourage more preventive dental service.
- 2) Provide education to parents with regard to things they can do.
- 3) Encourage tobacco cessation.

Parent Involvement Skills

Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Recognizing and dealing with substance abuse in children

Action Steps

- 1) Teach parents to recognize signs of drug use.
- 2) Teach parents how to deal with children abusing drugs and teach prevention.
- 3) Community support in providing programs for children abusing drugs, along with support groups.

Help prevent the spread of STD's

Action Steps

- 1) Teach parental skills on how to talk to children about STD's.
- 2) Training parents to help prevent spread of STD's.
- 3) Support groups for families and children dealing with STD's.

Help prevent truancy

Action Steps

- 1) Accountability of parents for truancy.
- 2) Better school board policies to document truancy to hold parents accountable.
- 3) Educational program for parents as to their liability for allowing their children not to attend school.

Safety

Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Child and domestic abuse

Action Steps

- 1) Education for prevention for children.
- 2) Target age levels throughout school years.
- 3) Target school nurses to help with this.

Safe educational environment

Action Steps

- 1) Provide safety and crisis intervention training to pre-school workers and students.
- 2) Provide CPR and fire safety classes to pre-school workers.
- 3) Place cross walks at all county schools.

Drug and alcohol abuse

Action Steps

- 1) Broaden the DARE program, to include all schools.
- 2) Prevention programs through local churches.
- 3) Mentoring programs for problem youth.

Policy Recommendations

- Work with health department to readily inform young mother-parents about importance of young children's mind development.
- Seek a partnering affect with adjacent counties toward establishing regional resources for children's crisis.
- Our local doctor's clinics are very helpful in child health, as well as the local health department. We should work to continue heightened level of service delivery from these entities.
- Parents/Guardians seek early intervention of crisis children from one parent or no parent homes.
- Try to stimulate meeting forums to help parents be more responsible on children/adolescent whereabouts.
- Community Collaboration-interact closely with church groups and public agencies as to children crisis issues.
- Try and stimulate more approved day-care facilities.
- Education - continue to work with local education board/principals to develop more job training skills.
- Economic Opportunities - As a CPC, attempt to encourage and foster economic development of the area so children and families can progress.
- Possibly secure grants for school crosswalk areas, to help eliminate accidents.

Accomplishments

- Program through United Way to provide dental services for children. "Secret Safe Place" established at Washington County infirmary for unwanted newborns (have had one newborn dropped off and is now placed with the Washington County Department of Human Resources).
- School System has replaced junk food and sodas with healthier foods by removing the vending machines and replacing with only juice and water. No longer serving fried foods.
- Received a grant for a Victim's Advocate for the court system.
- Established a Domestic Violence Program.
- E – 911 System in place for Washington County.
- Fatal Vision, which consist of drug perspective classes being taught to 5th graders by County Agent Arthur Threat.
- Mentoring program being offered to juveniles.
- Washington County has established a website detailing local resources.
- Washington County offered Career Day to high school students at Leroy High School. Twelve junior classmen were taken to Auburn University to view the campus and explore the positive aspects of a college education.
- Leadership Washington County was established.
- Established a new truancy program for Washington County.